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## News Release

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### Governor James E. Risch Unveils Statue on Borah Post Office Grounds Commemorating the "Hospitality of the Nez Perce"

BOISE – At a presentation ceremony held today (September 12), Idaho Governor James Risch unveiled a bronze statue on the grounds of the Borah Post Office building commemorating the Idaho legacy of explorers Lewis and Clark and the Nez Perce Tribe.

The "**Hospitality of the Nez Perce**" is a replica of a statue found on the campus of Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, and placed there as a centerpiece of the Lasting Legacy Centennial Mall Project commemorating the college's centennial celebration in 1993.

"This is a wonderful statue depicting a confluence of culture in Idaho. On behalf of all Idahoans I thank Dr. Carol MacGregor for her donation of this sculpture to the state from one of the nation's most noted Native American sculpturers, Doug Hyde," said Risch. "Please accept our heartfelt thanks for this wonderful piece of art that will grace the Capitol Mall."

The Statue, located on the southeast corner of the Borah Post Office building in the Capitol Mall complex, was purchased and donated to the State of Idaho by MacGregor, a well-known Boise author, historian of the American West, and long-time adjunct professor of History at Boise State University.

The sculpture in artful detail depicts Meriwether Lewis in a three-cornered hat and his colleague William Clark wearing a fur cap. An animated Nez Perce tribal chief, Twisted Hair, motions to the west and a perilous waterway that would transport the explorers to their destination—the Pacific Ocean. At their feet, unaware of the historical significance of this first encounter, Twisted Hair's young son Lawyer is enthralled by the elements of trade, a few fish, and some camas root.

Hyde, the artist and sculptor, is a descendant of the Nez Perce Tribe, and a native of Hermiston, Oregon. He resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico and at one time attended vocational

***(Continued, next page with photos)***

education classes at Lewis-Clark College and was a guest speaker at the college's National Bicentennial activities that took place earlier this year.

Captains Lewis and Clark and the Corp of Discovery were guests of the Nez Perce Indians for three weeks in May and June 1806. They camped in the present Kamiah Valley at a site now occupied by Three Rivers sawmill on the north side of the river. The explorers were waiting for the snow to melt along the trail through the Bitterroots before they could continue their homeward journey. Members of the party were suffering from hunger and many ailments including very sore feet. When they arrived in the valley most of their trade goods were gone. Food was in short supply in the Nez Perce villages as well as the camp of the Corp.

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*"This is a wonderful statue depicting a confluence of culture in Idaho" -- Governor Risch.*



**Governor Jim Risch** with Idaho author and historian **Carol Lynn MacGregor**, following presentation and gift of the "Hospitality of the Nez Perce" statue by Dr. MacGregor to the State of Idaho. The lifelike piece of art is located on the southeast side of the Borah Post Office Building in the Capitol Mall Complex.

